

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 1021

FOR: INA/GILBERT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, PK
SUBJ: PAKISTAN REQUEST ATHELETIC COACHES/ASIAN GAMES

REF: ISLAMABAD OM JAN 24, 1975

1. REFERENCE OM WHICH MAY NOT HAVE ARRIVED DEPARTMENT REPORTED REQUEST BY GOP FOR SEVEN COACHES TO COME PAKISTAN LATE 1975 AND REMAIN UNTIL COMPLETION ASIAN GAMES 1978. PROPOSAL IN FORMATIVE STAGE AND SINCE MANY DETAILS UNDEFINED EMBASSY WOULD NOT NORMALLY CONSIDER MATTER URGENT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD OFFICER THAT PM BHUTTO MAY BROACH SUBJECT DURING WASHINGTON VISIT.
2. GOP REQUEST IS FOR FOUR COACHES TRACK AND FIELD, TWO BASKETBALL AND ONE TENNIS (ALL MALE). OFFERS BOARD AND ROOM, DOMESTIC TRAVEL, SOME ALLOWANCES, AND SMALL PER DIEM. ASKS US FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND PAYMENT STIPEND. DETAILS ARRANGEMENTS NOT KNOWN. EMBASSY CURRENTLY DISCUSSING WITH PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD AND MINISTRY EDUCATION. PLANS ASIAN GAMES STILL BEING FORMULATED.
3. AS TENTATIVE EVALUATION EMBASSY BELIEVES PROJECT HAS POSITIVE ASPECTS AND COULD, IF PROPERLY ORGANIZED

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AND STAFFED, PROVIDE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR IN-DEPTH

CONTACTS BETWEEN AMERICANS AND PAKISTANIS. DO NOT HAVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE HERE TO ADVISE ON PRACTICABILITY PROJECT AND WHETHER OR NOT THREE YEARS INTENSIVE COACHING CAN PRODUCE INTERNATIONAL CALIBRE ATHLETES. WE ARE TOLD BY SAME OFFICER IT DEFINITE ALREADY USSR, HUNGARY, AND PRC EACH SENDING EIGHT COACHES VARIOUS SPORTS.

4. FINANCING OBVIOUS PROBLEM. EMBASSY INTERESTED EXPLORING IDEA THAT POSSIBLY IMG FUNDS, IF AGREEMENT COULD BE OBTAINED FROM BOTH GOVERNMENTS, WOULD PROVIDE AMPLE RESOURCES FOR THIS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL/ CULTURAL PROJECTS. EMBASSY OM SUGGESTS SOME OTHER POSSIBILITIES.

5. INTERESTINGLY, SPORTS BOARD OFFICER ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS COULD BE USED FOR THIS PROJECT. IN OUR OM WE SUGGESTED THAT PEACE CORPS TYPE PROJECT MIGHT BE POSSIBILITY BUT THIS NOT DISCUSSED WITH GOP. OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT GOP SHOULD OFFICIALLY REQUEST IF THEY WANTED ASSISTANCE PEACE CORPS.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES ONLY REMOTE POSSIBILITY BHUTTO BRINGING UP THIS TOPIC BUT HE MIGHT IF ASIAN GAMES MENTIONED. MINISTRY EDUCATION PUSHING VERY HARD AND PROJECT TAKING ON HUGE DIMENSIONS WITH AMBITIOUS BUILDING PROGRAM AS WELL AS TRAINING ACTIVITIES BOTH NOT YET STARTED BUT WE ARE TOLD WILL SOON BE UNDERWAY. AS FAR AS WE KNOW GOP DOES NOT PLAN TO REQUEST ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM US TO PROVIDE PHYSICAL FACILITIES BUT IT CONCEIVABLE SOME TENTATIVE EXPLORATION WILL BE ATTEMPTED CONSIDERING LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE AND OBVIOUS NEED FOR CRASH PROGRAM.
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